

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2869

INFO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, ECON, YO, CZ

SUBJ: AGREEMENT ON EMPLOYMENT OF YUGOSLAV WORKERS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

1. POLITIKA OF MAY 19 REPORTS THAT YUGOSLAV DEL WILL DEPART FOR PRAGUE THIS WEEK TO SIGN AGREEMENT ON EMPLOYMENT OF YUGOSLAVI WORKERS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA.
2. AGREEMENT WILL FOR FIRST TIME ENABLE YUGOSLAVS TO COME TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA INDIVIDUALLY FOR EMPLOYMENT WITH CZECH ENTERPRISES. PAYMENT AND SOCIAL BENEFITS WILL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH CZECH LAWS AND REGS.
3. HERETOFORE, YUGOSLAVS WORKED IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA ONLY AS EMPLOYEES OF YUGOSLAV CONSTRUCTUIN ENTERPRISES, AND 7,000 ACTIVE THERE NOW IN THAT CAPACITY.
4. SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION TO NEGOTIATIONS WHICH HAD DRAGGED OUT OVER TWO YEARS WAS, REPORTEDLY, RESULT OF BREAKTHROUGH ON TROUBLE-

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SOME QUESTION OF TRANSFER OF EARNINGS AND SAVINGS. CZECHS AGREED

TO MAKE AVAILABLE ONE "CLEARING DOLLAR" FOR EACH TEN CROWNS SAVED BY WORKERS, FOR DEPOSIT WITH NATL BANK OF YUGOSLAVIA. NATL BANK WOULD, IN TURN, PAY 17.20 DINARS FOR EACH CLEARING DOLLAR.

5. COMMENT: EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT WITH MANPOWER-SHORT CZECHOSLOVAKIA WOULD BE FIRST CONCLUDED BY YUGOSLAVIA WITH ANY E. EUROPEAN COUNTRY. ALTHOUGH RATE OF RETURN OF YUGOSLAVS EMPLOYED IN W. EUROPE AND OVERSEAS HAS BEEN VERY MODERATE - 30,000 LAST YEAR AND ANOTHER 20,000 PROJECTED THIS YEAR, OUT OF 1.1 MILLION PERSONS TOTAL -- YUGOSLAVS ARE SEEKING SUBSTITUTE LABOR MARKETS, IN PART TO ACCOMMODATE SURPLUS WORKERS WHO MAY BE ENTERING LOCAL LABOR FORCE THIS YEAR. EMPLOYMENT IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA WILL OBVIOUSLY NOT HAVE SAME ATTRACTION FOR YUGOSLAVS AS WORK IN W. GERMANY OR AUSTRIA, BUT WE WOULD EXPECT INCREASE OF SEVERAL THOUSAND IN CURRENT NUMBER OF YUGOSLAVS EMPLOYED THERE. PLACEMENT WILL APPARENTLY BE HANDLED THROUGH GOY LABOR EXCHANGES, AS IN CASE OF EMPLOYMENT ELSEWHERE.
MILLER

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